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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/725,060 | 12/02/2003 | Shinshu Kato | 117084 | 2936 |
| 25944 | 7590 | 06/14/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320 | | | HYEON, HAE M | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2839 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,060

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Hae M Hyeon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/2/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the paragraph [0030], line8, it seems that “a jumper cable 30” should be -- a jumper cable 30A --.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 8 recites, “the lower casing member and the main casing are **attached to one another via the male and female coupling portions** that abut the lower casing member.”

However, the examiner understood from the present specification that the lower casing member and the main casing are attached to one another via the latching devices 12g, 13a and 13b and the male and female coupling portions are to attach the plurality of standard boxes of junction box

with another plurality of standard boxes to increase the number of standard boxes in the junction box. Thus, the function of the male and female coupling portions is unclear in view of claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasai (6,383,035 B1) in view of Kato (5,624,280) and Okabe et al (6,332,813).

Kasai discloses a junction box comprising a plurality of standard boxes 24 including a main casing 12 containing at least one circuit and a lower casing member 13 attaching to the main casing 12 with a latching device 12a and 13a; a plurality of longitudinal bus bars 14 including a strap-like portion 21, a plurality of tabs 22, and a plurality of insulation displacement terminals 23; and at least one jumper cable 31. However, Kasai does not disclose male and female coupling portions provided on the outer opposite side surfaces of the main casing 12 and attachment portion for a vehicle body.

Okabe discloses an electrical connector comprising a joining structure having male 16, 17 and female 25, 26 coupling portions provided on outer opposite side of a connector 11. The male coupling portions 16 and 17 of the connector 11 engage the female coupling portions 23 and 24 of another connector 12 to join the connector 11 with the connector 12. Therefore, a plurality of connectors can be joined together.

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Regarding to an attachment portion for a vehicle body, it is commonly know structure in a junction box. Also, Kato discloses a junction box having an attachment portion 21 for attaching the junction box to a vehicle body.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the junction box taught by Kasai such that it would have male and female coupling portions as taught by Okabe in order to attach a plurality of junction box together.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5,744,751 by Kasai, US Patent No. 5,915,978 by Hayakawa et al., and US Patent No. 6,375,517 B1 by Okabe et al. discloses male and female coupling devices.

US Patent No. 5,626,492 by Onizuka et al. and US Patent No. 6,162,990 by Sakamoto discloses a junction box having a plurality of bus bars with a plurality of tabs and insulation displacement terminals.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M Hyeon whose AU is 2839 and whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the telephone number 571-272-2800 ext 39.

Any response to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Hae M Hyeon

Examiner

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hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon